

JAN 24 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE SUPPORT OF THE REPEAL OF COMBAT EXCLUSIONARY
RULES.

1 WHEREAS, the United States military has an epidemic rate of
2 rape in all branches of the armed services; and
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4 WHEREAS, in her book, "The Lonely Soldier: The Private War
5 of Women Serving in Iraq", Helen Benedict refers to several
6 studies of the military funded by the United States Department
7 of Veteran Affairs; and
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9 WHEREAS, according to these studies, thirty per cent of
10 military women are raped while serving, seventy-one per cent are
11 sexually assaulted, and ninety per cent are sexually harassed;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense
15 acknowledges the problem, estimating in its 2009 annual report
16 on sexual assault, that approximately ninety per cent of
17 military sexual assaults are never reported; and
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19 WHEREAS, the combat arms specialties of the United States
20 military continue to foster misogynist attitudes such as those
21 expressed in this still-popular Jody call: "Who can take a
22 chainsaw, Cut the bitch in two, F*** the bottom half, And give
23 the upper half to you..."; and
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25 WHEREAS, military policy provides that women cannot be
26 assigned to units whose primary mission is to engage the enemy;
27 these policies are not based on women's proven abilities; and
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29 WHEREAS, where and how women serve in the military should
30 be based on ability and training, not gender; and
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S.C.R. NO. 8

1 WHEREAS, in today's all-volunteer force, women have
2 accepted the challenges, responsibilities, and dangers of
3 military service, and have proven themselves time and time
4 again; and

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6 WHEREAS, closing combat specialties do not keep women out
7 of combat or safe; and

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9 WHEREAS, women have been toting M60 machine guns and M16
10 rifles into the forefront of battle zones for decades; and

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12 WHEREAS, these combat exclusionary rules keep women from
13 promotion, in contrast to exclusively male combat specialties
14 that are often fast-tracked; and

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16 WHEREAS, there is a failure of leadership with regard to
17 women on and off the battlefield; and

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19 WHEREAS, women and gay service members are harassed and
20 assaulted as too many male commanders tolerate such abuse; and

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22 WHEREAS, senior military leaders of both genders have
23 stated that combat exclusionary rules degrade both morale and
24 readiness; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the President and the
29 United States Congress are requested to immediately repeal the
30 combat exclusionary rules as contrary to good order and
31 discipline and as the humane, ethical thing to do; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
35 United States of America, the Secretary of Defense, the Majority
36 Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
37 States House of Representatives, and members of Hawaii's
38 congressional delegation.

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41 OFFERED BY:

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